



 READ IT
YOURSELF
STORIES

BY
HARRIS AND EDMONDS

Read It Yourself
Stories



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Read It Yourself Stories

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Read It Yourself
Stories



Going to School

Nut Cracker and Sugar Dolly
were going to school.

On the way
they met Marjory Daw
and Simple Simon.

“Where are you going?”

said Marjory Daw.

“We are going to school,”

said Nut Cracker.

When they came

to the school yard,

Marjory Daw said,

“Let us play Seesaw.”

So they played Seesaw.

“Where is our teacher?”

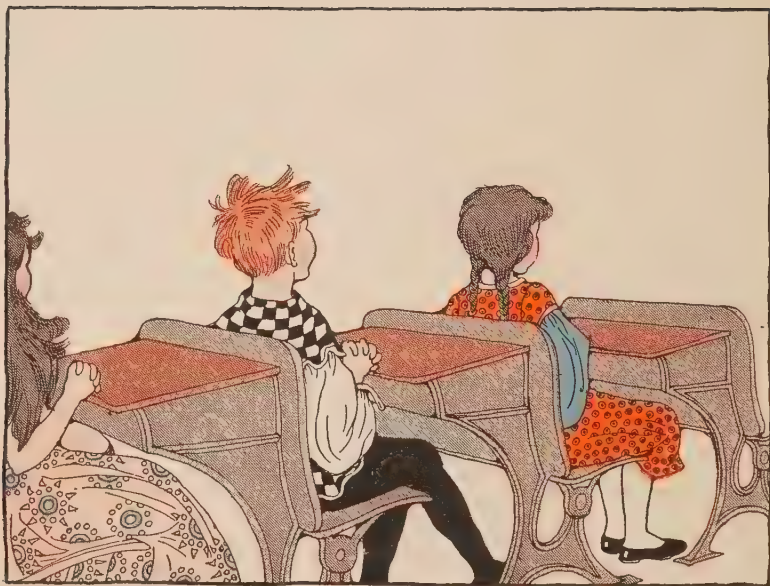
asked Simple Simon.

“Here I am,” said Miss Lolly Pop.

“Let us march.”

So they marched into school.





In School

“Good morning,”

said Miss Lolly Pop.

“Are you all here?”

“I am,” said Marjory Daw.

“So am I,” said Sugar Dolly.

“I’m here, too,” said Nut Cracker.

“Don’t you see me?”

said Simple Simon.

“Oh, yes,” said Miss Lolly Pop.

“I see you.

Come and sit near me.

What would you like to play?”

“Let us play ‘Cat and Mouse,’”

they all said.

So they played Cat and Mouse.

Then they went to their seats.

“Now get your hats,”

said Miss Lolly Pop.

“It is time to go home.”

Their First Lesson

“Let us sing

‘Hey, Diddle, Diddle,’ ”

said Miss Lolly Pop.

So they sang

“Hey, Diddle, Diddle.”

“Let us sing another song,”

said the children.

“No,” said Miss Lolly Pop.

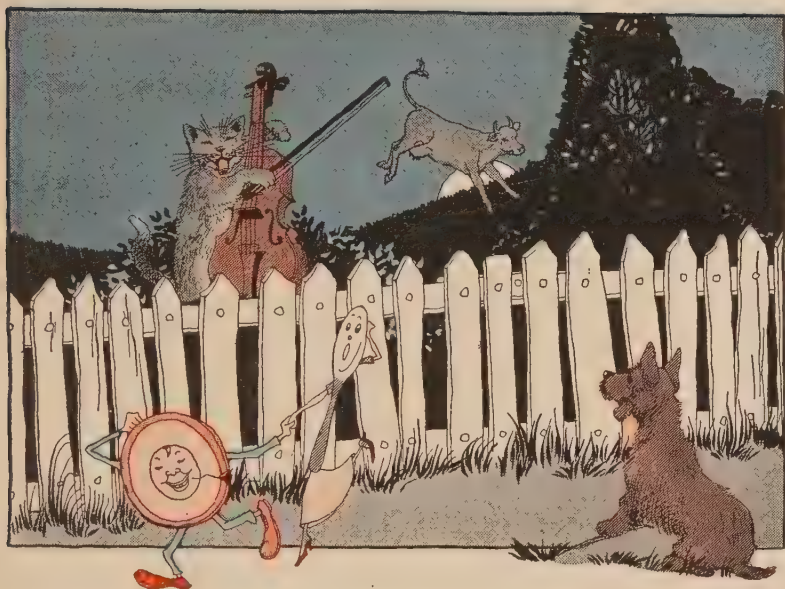
“I will tell you a story.”

“Once upon a time

Dish was out playing,

Spoon was out playing,

Cow was out playing, too.



“ ‘Let us run,’ ” said Dish.

“ ‘No, let us jump,’ ” said Cow.

“Just then Cat and Dog came by.

Cat said, ‘I will play my fiddle.

Then you can dance.’ ”

“So Cat played his fiddle.



The Cow jumped over the moon.
The little Dog laughed
to see such sport.
And the Dish ran away
with the Spoon."

"Good, good," they all said.

“Let us play it.”

So Miss Lolly Pop
let them play it.

Nut Cracker and Sugar Dolly
were the Dish and the Spoon.
Marjory Daw was the Cat.

Simple Simon said,
“I want to be the Cow
so I can jump over the moon.”

“Well done,” said Miss Lolly Pop.

“That is all for to-day.

Put things away.

And now, little children,
Good day.”



Black Cat and the Bird

Black Cat lived with Marjory Daw.

One day Black Cat ran away.

He ran and ran

till he met Little Bird.

“Good morning, Little Bird,”

said Black Cat.

“Oh, what a fine dinner
I shall have!

Come and play with me,”
said Black Cat.

“Oh, no, Black Cat,”
said Little Bird.

“You would eat me.
I will not play with you,
but I will sing for you.”

Just then Tommy Tinker’s dog
came by.

Black Cat saw the dog,
and away she ran,
as fast as she could.

Black Rat and the Cat

Black Rat lived in the cellar.

He did not like the cellar.

So he went up to the kitchen.

On the kitchen floor

 were some crumbs.

Black Rat said,

“I will eat the crumbs.”

The Maid saw Black Rat.

She ran for the Cat.

The Cat said,

“What a fine dinner I shall have!”

But Black Rat said,

“No, you will not!” and ran away.





Miss Lolly Pop and the Cat

Miss Lolly Pop went for a walk.
Black Cat went for a walk, too.
Black Cat saw a nest in a tree.
He said,
“I will look into the nest.

I will see if I can find a bird."

So he went to the tree.

He climbed and climbed,
till he came to the nest.

He saw a bird in the nest.

"Oh, what a fine dinner!" he said.

Just then Miss Lolly Pop
saw Black Cat.

She ran to the tree.

She caught him by the tail.

"Meow, meow! let me go!"
cried Black Cat.

Miss Lolly Pop let him go,
and away he ran.

The Rat and the King

Once there was a Rat.

He was a Big Rat, too.

He lived in the King's house.

One day Big Rat
came to the King.

“What do you want?”
said the King.

“O King, I want something
to eat,” said Big Rat.

“Go away, Big Rat, go away!”
said the King.

But Big Rat
would not go away.



Then the King called Black Cat.
He said, "Here is Big Rat.
Eat him!"

But Big Rat ran away.
Black Cat ran after Big Rat,
but could not find him.

The Story of Hen Pen

Hen Pen lived in a barn.

She had a nest in the hay.

One day she went for a walk.

While she was gone,

Little Boy Blue

came to the barn

to look for eggs.

He could not find any eggs.

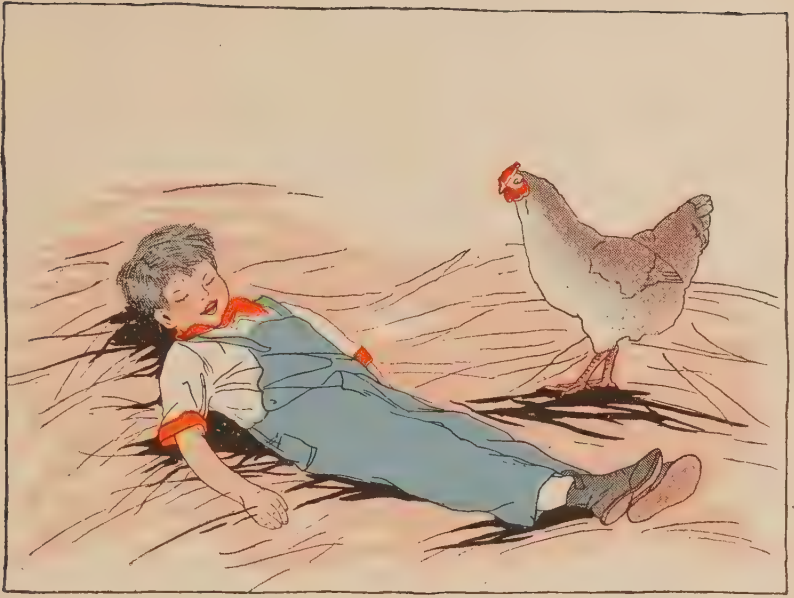
So he fell asleep

in the hay.

Hen Pen came back

to the nest.

She saw Boy Blue.



Boy Blue was asleep in the hay.

Hen Pen said,

“Run home, little Boy Blue,
run home!

I have no eggs for you to-day.”

Mother Pig's House

Father Pig and Mother Pig
lived in a pen.

Mother Pig did not like the pen.

Father Pig said,

“I will make you a house.”

So he went to get the wood.

On the way he met Peter Rabbit.

“How do you do, Father Pig?

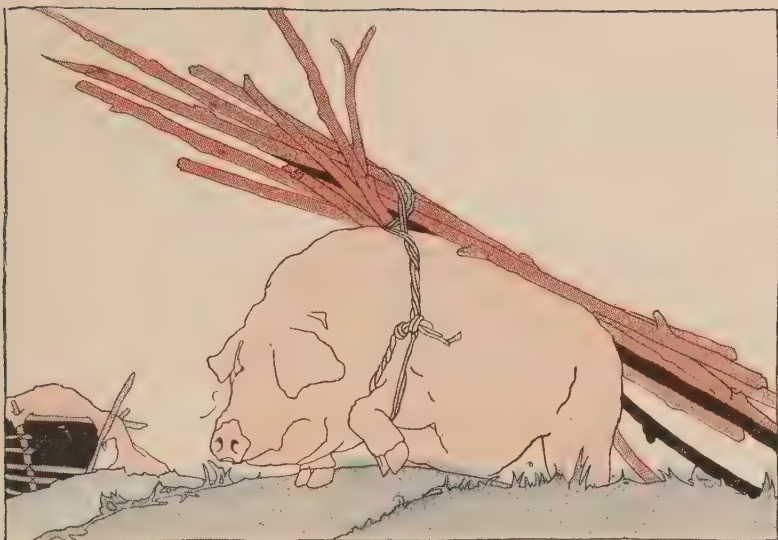
Where are you going?”

asked Peter Rabbit.

“Mother Pig does not like her pen,”

said Father Pig.

“I am going to make her a house.”



“I will help you,” said Peter Rabbit.

“Very well, come along,”

said Father Pig.

By and by they met Ducky Daddles.

“How do you do, Father Pig?”

said Ducky Daddles.



“Where are you going?”

“Mother Pig does not like her pen,”
said Father Pig.

“I am going to make her a house.”

“I will help you,”
said Ducky Daddles.

“Very well, come along,”
said Father Pig.

Soon the house was ready.

“Oh, what a nice little house!”
said Mother Pig.

“Now you shall all
have a fine dinner.”

And a fine dinner they had.



The Three Little Mice

Tibs, Fibs and Nibs
were three little mice.

They lived in the cellar
of an old house.

One day the Maid
set a trap in the cellar.

“Now I shall catch those mice!”
she said.

The mice heard the Maid.

“We will find a new home,”
they said.

So out of the cellar they ran.

Tibs found a paper sack.

“This is my house!” he said.
And into the sack he went.

Fibs found a nest of hay.

“This will do for my house!”
he said.

And into the hay he went.

Soon he was fast asleep.

Nibs was a very wise little mouse.

He walked and walked.

He looked and looked.

At last he saw

an old stone wall.

“This shall be my house!”

said wise little Nibs.

And into the stone wall he went.

Soon Black Cat came

to Tibs’s house.

“O Tibs!” called Black Cat,

“come out for a walk.”

“Not to-day, Black Cat,

not to-day!” said Tibs.

Then Black Cat put in her paw

and caught Tibs.



By and by Black Cat came
to Fibs's house.

"O Fibs!" called Black Cat,
"come out for a walk."

"Not to-day, Black Cat,
not to-day!" said Fibs.

Then Black Cat put in her paw
and caught Fibs.

At last Black Cat came to Nibs's
house in the stone wall.

"O Nibs!" called Black Cat,
"come out for a walk."

"Very well," said Nibs.

"I will come when I am ready."

Black Cat sat on the wall
and waited and waited.

“Mew, mew! Are you ready, Nibs?”
asked Black Cat.

“Not yet,” said Nibs.

“Are you ready now?”
said Black Cat.

“No,” said Nibs. “I am not.”

“Well, then,” said Black Cat,
“I am coming in!”

Black Cat tried and tried to get in.
She called and called to Nibs.
But Nibs did not hear her.
He was fast asleep.

The Mouse and the Bag of Gold

Squeak was a little mouse.

He lived with his Father
and Mother, in a little house.

One day Father Mouse
went out to get them
some dinner.

But he fell into a trap
and never came back.

Then Mother Mouse
had to work very hard.

It made Squeak very sad
to see his Mother
working so hard.

He said, "I will go
and seek my fortune."

So one day he said good-by
to his Mother.

And off he went
to seek his fortune.

On the way he met Sniff Snuff.

"Hello, Squeak," said Sniff Snuff.

"Where are you going?"

"I am going to seek my fortune,"
said Squeak.

"Let me come, too,"
said Sniff Snuff.

"Come along," said Squeak.

So they walked along
until they met Greedy Rat.

“Take me with you,”
said Greedy Rat.

“No, indeed!” said Squeak.

Then they ran and ran,
until they came to the river.

Greedy Rat ran after them.

He pushed Squeak into the river.

Down, down, went Squeak,
until he came to the bottom
of the river.

There he found a bag of gold!

He called Sniff Snuff.



Sniff Snuff helped Squeak
out of the water.

They took the bag of gold
and went home.

Squeak gave the bag of gold
to his Mother,
And she never had to work
so hard again.

The Soft Soap Man

Once there was a Soft Soap Man.
He lived in a little house
on the top of a hill.

One day he said,
“I will take a ride
on my Rolling Pin.”

So he took a ride
on his Rolling Pin.
He rolled down the hill.
He rolled and rolled and rolled.

While he was gone
Raggedy Man came
to the house.



Raggedy Man had
a wig and a wag
and a long leather bag.

Raggedy Man opened the door
and went in.

There stood Tub.

There stood Washboard.

There stood the Clothes Pins
all in a row.

Tub said,

“What do you want,
Raggedy Man, with your wig
and your wag,
and your long leather bag?”

“I came to see the Soft Soap
Man,” said the Raggedy Man.

“He has gone for a ride
on his Rolling Pin,” said Tub.

“Maybe we can help you,”
said Washboard.



“I want to be washed,”
said the Raggedy Man.

“And I want to carry some
soft soap home with me.”

“Jump in,” said the Tub.

“I will,” said the Raggedy Man.

Washboard jumped in, too.

“Now who will rub?” they asked.

“I will,” said the Soft Soap Man.

“I am back from my ride
on my Rolling Pin
and I will rub.”

And he rubbed
and he rubbed.

And he scrubbed

and he scrubbed.

Then Clothes Pins hung him up
to dry.

At last the Raggedy Man
was dry.

“Come now, and take me down,”
said he.

“I’m as dry
as dry can be.”

They took him down.

And off he went
with his wig and his wag,
and his long leather bag.



The Toy Shop

Once upon a time
there was a Toy Shop.
In this Toy Shop
lived many dolls.
There were wax dolls.

There were china dolls.

There were dolls from far Japan.

There were wooden dolls.

There were paper dolls.

There were dolls from every land.

But the doll

the children loved best
was the Old Rag Doll.

One night the dolls
were all asleep.

The Fairies came
to visit the Toy Shop.

The Fairies said,

“Oh, see the dolls!

Why, they are all asleep!

Let us sing our song
and wake them."

"Dollies, come! Dollies, come!

'Tis the hour of playtime.

Dollies, come away.

"Dollies, come! Dollies, come!

Who would wish for daytime?

Dollies, come and play."

Down came the dolls,

as fast as they could come.

But Rag Doll did not stop

to play.



She ran out of the door
and down the street.
She ran and ran and ran.

Along came the Tin Soldiers,
marching in a row.

They said,
“Old Rag Doll,
what are you doing here?”
“Go away, go away,
Tin Soldiers!”
said Old Rag Doll.

But the Tin Soldiers caught her
and carried her back
to the Toy Shop.



The Fairies took Old Rag Doll
and put her to sleep
in her own little bed.

Then they thanked the Tin Soldiers
and gave each one
a Magic Whistle.



The Magic Whistle

Long, long ago,
in the window of a Toy Shop,
stood an Army
of Tin Soldiers.
And this is how they looked.

Their coats were blue.
Their trousers were red.
Each one wore a hat
 on the side of his head.
And each Soldier
 had his Magic Whistle.

One day the Captain said,
“Let us run away from the King.”
So he blew his Magic Whistle.

Up went the window,
 and out went the Tin Soldiers!
They ran and ran
 till they came
 to the corner of the street.

There they met a Beggar Boy.

The Beggar Boy had a bag.

“Where are you going,

Tin Soldiers?”

said the Beggar Boy.

“We do not want to fight.

We are running away

from the King,”

said the Tin Soldiers.

The Beggar Boy said,

“I will put you into my bag,

and take you to the King.”

So he put the Tin Soldiers

into his bag and away he went.



“Now what shall we do?”

asked the Tin Soldiers.

“Blow your Magic Whistles,”

said the Captain.

“Ready—one, two, three, blow!”

And back in the window

of the Toy Shop

stood the Army

of Tin Soldiers.

On and on went the Beggar Boy.

But he never reached

the King's Castle.

Why?

Well, ask the Tin Soldiers.

The Chocolate Soldier

Once upon a time

there was a Chocolate Soldier.

He lived in a Candy Shop.

One day he said,

“I want Little Bo Peep
to eat me.”

He marched out of the Shop.

He marched and marched,
until he met Jack Horner.

“How do you do?”

said Jack Horner.

“Where are you going
in such a hurry?”



“I am going
to Little Bo Peep’s house,”
said the Chocolate Soldier.

“I want her to eat me.”

“Oh, let me eat you.

I like Chocolate Soldiers,”
said Jack Horner.

“No, indeed,
I am too sweet for you.

I want Little Bo Peep to eat me.”

So Chocolate Soldier
marched on and on.

By and by
he met Little Miss Muffet.

“How do you do,
Chocolate Soldier?”
said Little Miss Muffet.

“Where are you going
in such a hurry?”

“I am going
to Little Bo Peep’s house,”
said the Chocolate Soldier.

“I want her to eat me.”

“Oh, let me eat you,”
said Little Miss Muffet.

“I like Chocolate Soldiers.”

“No, indeed!”
said the Chocolate Soldier.

“You would not like my brown coat.
I will not let you eat me.”

He went on and on
until he met Humpty Dumpty.

“How do you do?”
said Humpty Dumpty.

“Where are you going
in such a hurry?”

“I am going
to Little Bo Peep’s house,”
said the Chocolate Soldier.

“I want her to eat me.”

“Oh, let me eat you!”
said Humpty Dumpty.



“No, indeed!”

said the Chocolate Soldier.

“I was made for Little Bo Peep.”

At last Chocolate Soldier came
to Little Bo Peep’s house.

Chocolate Soldier said,

“How do you do?

Will you eat me,

Little Bo Peep?

See my brown coat!

I was made just for you.”

“Oh, yes, I will eat you,

Chocolate Soldier,”

said Bo Peep.

Little Bo Peep took a bite.

“Umh, umh! How good!”

said she.

Little Bo Peep took another bite.

Chocolate Soldier was gone!

Six Ducks

Boy Blue had

six white ducks.

They were fat ducks, too.

One duck had a feather

curled up on his back.

When the ducks

saw Boy Blue,

they said, "Quack, Quack!"

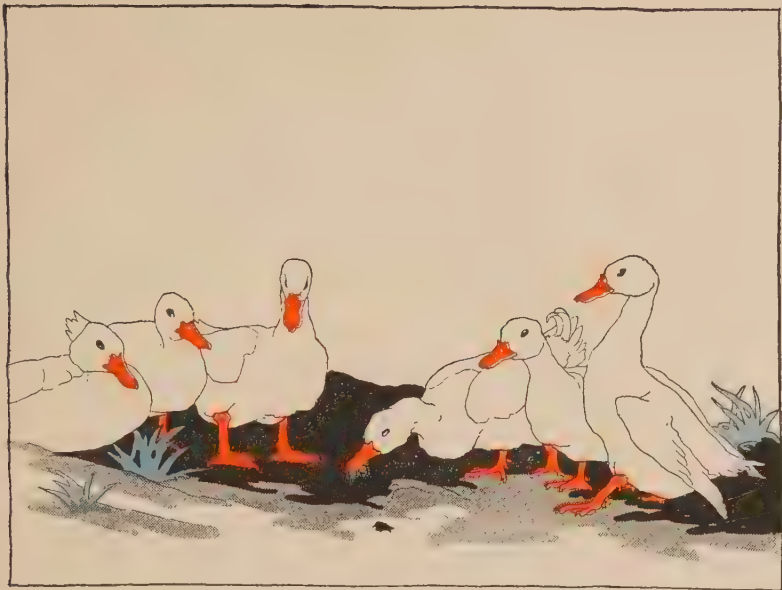
But the one

with the feather

curled up on his back

said, "Quack, quack!

Quack, quack!"



One day they found
some fat bugs.

Oh, such nice fat bugs!

“Quack, quack!

See what we have found!”
said the ducks.

But the one with the feather
curled up on his back
said, "Quack, quack!
Quack, quack!"

And he ate all
the nice fat bugs.

By and by the six white ducks
came to the river.

"Quack, quack!
Look at the water!"
said the ducks.

But the one with the feather
curled up on his back
did not say, "Quack, quack!"

He said, "Quack, quack!

Quack, quack!

See me swim!"

And in he went.

One day Boy Blue's Mother said,

"We will have duck for dinner.

I want the one with the feather

curled up on his back.

I am tired of his

'Quack, quack!

Quack, quack!" "

And that was the end of the duck

with the feather

curled up on his back.

Soft Soap Man's Ride

Once upon a time,
when Soft Soap Man
went for a ride
on his Rolling Pin,
he met Sammy Soap Suds.

“Can you find
a place for me
on your Rolling Pin?”
asked Sammy Soap Suds.

“Jump on,” said Soft Soap Man.
So Sammy Soap Suds
jumped on
and away they went.



They rolled along
until they met a dog.

“Whose dog are you?”
said the Soft Soap Man.

“I am Tommy Tinker’s Dog.

Bow, wow, wow!” said the Dog.

“Just wait, little Dog,”
said the Soft Soap Man.
“I will give you a bone.”

Soft Soap Man looked
at Rolling Pin, and said,
“Knickety, knackety, knock,
Little door, unlock!”
And the door flew open.

Soft Soap Man
took out a bone
and gave it to the Dog.
Then Soft Soap Man said,
“Kittery, katterry, kut,
Little door, go shut!”

And the door flew shut.

On and on they rolled,
until they met a Cat.

Soft Soap Man said,
“Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat,
Where have you been?”

“I have been to London,
To visit the Queen.”

“Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat,
What did you there?”

“I frightened a little Mouse
Under her chair.

It ran away, and I am looking
for it now.”

“Never mind,” said Soft Soap Man,
“I will give you a Mouse.”

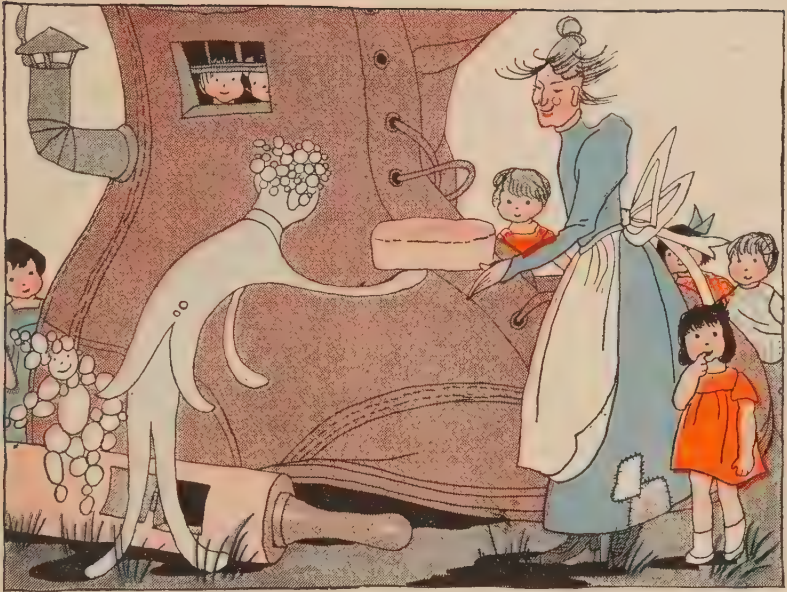
He looked at the Rolling Pin
and said,
“Knickety, knackety, knock,
Little door, unlock!”

And the door flew open.

Soft Soap Man
took out a Mouse
and gave it to the Cat.

Then Soft Soap Man said,
“Kittery, kattery, kut,
Little door, go shut!”

And the door flew shut.



Next they saw an Old Woman
beside a queer little house.
The Old Woman was crying.
“Why, this is the Old Woman
Who Lives in a Shoe.
She has so many children!

She doesn't know what to do."

"Oh, my!" said Soft Soap Man.

"This will never do!

Knickety, knackety, knock,

Little door, unlock!"

And the door flew open.

He took some bread and gave it

to the Old Woman.

"Kittery, katterry, kut,

Little door, go shut!"

Then they rolled and rolled,

And rolled down the hill.

And, as far as I know,

They are rolling still.



Big Lion and Little Mouse

Once there was a Little Mouse.

One day he said,

“I will go to the forest.”

So away he went.

He ran and ran and ran.

By and by he came to the forest.

There he met a Big Lion.

Big Lion caught Little Mouse.

“Now I will eat you,

Little Mouse!” said Big Lion.

“Oh, please do not eat me,

Big Lion.

I may be able to help you

some day,” said Little Mouse.

“Ha, Ha!” laughed Big Lion.

“Well, be off with you, Mouse.

You are too small for me to eat,”

said Big Lion.

How Little Mouse ran!

One day Big Lion was caught
in a net.

“Help! Help!” called Big Lion.

“What shall I do?

What shall I do?”

“I will help you, Big Lion,”
said Little Mouse.

How Little Mouse worked!

He gnawed and gnawed at the net.

At last Big Lion was free.

“Thank you, Little Mouse.

You saved my life,” said Big Lion.

Big Lion and Little Mouse
were friends ever after.



Polly's Tea Party

Polly gave a Tea Party.

Marjory Daw was there.

Jack and Jill were there.

Tommy Tinker and his dog
were there, too.

They all came early.

Tommy Tinker said,

“Let us play.”

“Let us play Seesaw,”

said Marjory Daw.

So they all played Seesaw.

Then Tommy said,

“Now let us have tea.”

“I will put the kettle on,”

said Polly

“But who will get the water?”

“Not I,” said Tommy Tinker.

“Not I,” said Marjory Daw.

“We will,” said Jack and Jill.

“We will get the water.”

So Jack and Jill ran up the hill

to bring a pail of water.

Jack fell down,

and Jill fell down.

But they didn't spill the water!

Then Polly put the kettle on,

and they all had tea.



“We must go home now,”
said the children.

“We have had such a good time
at your party, Polly.

Thank you so much
for the tea.”

Gingerbread Dog and Peppermint Cat

Once upon a time

Jack and Jill went into
a Candy Shop.

There they saw

a Gingerbread Dog
and a Peppermint Cat.

Jack bought the Gingerbread Dog.

Jill bought the Peppermint Cat.

“We will put them in a sack
and carry them home,”
they said.



On the way home
Jack and Jill
fell down the hill.
And over into the river
went the sack
with the dog and the cat.

On and on went the sack
until it reached the sea.

“Oh, we shall drown!”
said the Peppermint Cat.

“What shall we do?”
said Gingerbread Dog.

“Let us both shout together.
Some one may hear us.”

So they shouted,
“Help! Help! Help!”

Now the Butcher, the Baker
and the Candy Stick Maker
had just gone for a sail
in a tub.



They heard the cry.

Looking around,

they saw that Gingerbread Dog
and Peppermint Cat
were in great danger.

“We will save you!” they said.

Soon the Gingerbread Dog
and the Peppermint Cat
were safe in the tub.

“What are you doing here?”
said the Baker
to the Gingerbread Dog.

“And what are you doing here?”
said the Candy Stick Maker
to the Peppermint Cat.

“Jack and Jill bought us,
but on the way home
we fell into the river,”
said the Gingerbread Dog
and the Peppermint Cat.

“Oh, I see!” said the Baker
and the Candy Stick Maker.

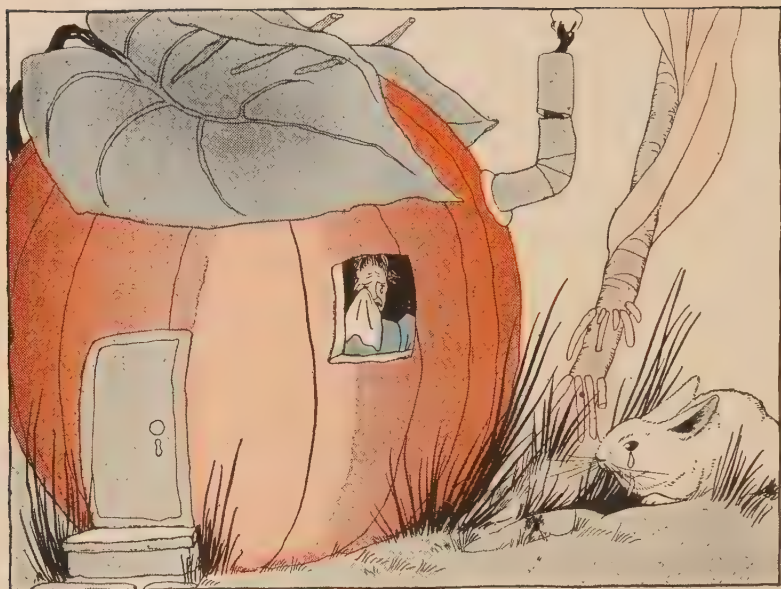
“Well, I will take you back
to Jack and Jill,”
said the Butcher.

So they all sailed back in the tub.

When Jack and Jill saw them
they cried,

“Hurrah for the Gingerbread Dog
And the Peppermint Cat!

We missed you all
this long, long day,
And wondered if you
had gone to stay.”



Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater

Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater,
Had a wife but could not keep her;
He put her in a Pumpkin Shell
And there he kept her very well.

Long, long ago,

there lived a Little Old Man,
and his name was Peter.

Peter lived with a Little Old Woman,
in a Little Old House.

One night their house burned down.
The Little Old Woman
cried and cried.

Now the Little Old Man hunted
until he found
a Pumpkin Shell.

Peter said,
“We can live in this
Pumpkin Shell very well.



Do not cry, Little Old Woman.
Get into this Pumpkin Shell
and all will be well.
Then I will go
and hunt for something
to eat.”

While he was gone

White Rabbit came by.

White Rabbit said,

“Why do you cry,

Little Old Woman?”

“I am crying,”

said Little Old Woman,

“because my house burned down,

and I have nothing

to eat.”

Then White Rabbit said,

“I will cry, too.”

So White Rabbit cried.

Just then Tiny Mouse came by.

“Why do you cry, White Rabbit?”
asked Tiny Mouse.

“I am crying because
the Little Old Woman is crying.
And the Little Old Woman
is crying because her house
burned down.

And she has nothing to eat.”

Then Tiny Mouse said,

“I will cry, too.”

So Tiny Mouse cried.

By and by Sly Fox came along.

“Why do you cry, Tiny Mouse?”
asked Sly Fox.

“I am crying because

White Rabbit is crying.

And White Rabbit is crying

because the Little Old Woman
is crying.

And the Little Old Woman

is crying because

her house burned down.

And she has nothing to eat.”

Sly Fox said,

“Let me think.”

Just then he saw the Little Old Man

coming down the road

with a sack on his back.

Sly Fox said,

“There may be something
in that sack to eat.

Let us all go to meet him.”

The Little Old Woman said,

“What do you have
in your sack?”

The Little Old Man

danced and shouted.

And he sang,

“Ziggety, zaggety, zare,

Here is pig and lamb so rare!

Now let us go back

And open the sack,

Ziggety, zaggety, zare!”

The Death of Cock Robin

One night Policeman Owl
was walking through the
streets of Animal Town.

The Moonbeams were dancing
all along the streets.

They made them as light as day.

Policeman Owl looked up
and down the streets.

With his big round eyes,
he saw a strange sight.

There lay Cock Robin,
shot through the heart,
with an arrow.

“Who, who killed Cock Robin?”
said Policeman Owl.

So,

First he leaped
and then he flew,
To see if anybody knew,
Who killed Cock Robin.

“Stop, stop, who goes there?”
said Policeman Owl.

“It is I,” said Dancing Bear.

“Do you know
Cock Robin is dead?”
asked Policeman Owl.

Dancing Bear shook his head.



Then he said,

“Too bad, too bad!

How sad, how sad!

Let us go to Judge Pig.

Maybe he can help us.”

“Maybe he can,” said Policeman Owl.

So,

First they leaped

and then they ran,

Until they came to Judge Pig,

and they both began,

“Do you know Cock Robin
is dead?

Who killed him?”

Judge Pig shook his head,

and said,

“Too bad, too bad!

How sad, how sad!

It was not Black Cat,

for he went by with his fiddle.

It was not Cow,
for there she is now.
Let us go and ask Sparrow.
It may be he shot him
with his bow and arrow.”

So,
First they leaped,
and then they ran,
Until they came
to the Sparrow,
and they all began,
“Did you kill Cock Robin?
Did you shoot him, Sparrow,
with your bow and arrow?”

The Sparrow hung his head.

“Yes, I did it,” he said.

“I killed Cock Robin.

I shot him dead

with my bow and arrow.”

The Animals shook their heads,
and said,

“Too bad, too bad!

How sad, how sad!”

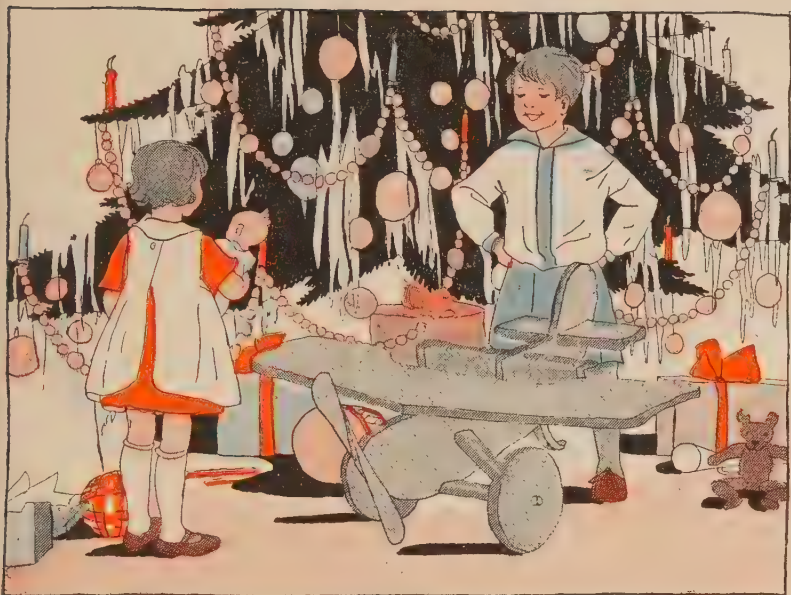
Then,

All the birds of the air,

Fell a-sighing and a-sobbing,

When they heard Sparrow say

He had killed Cock Robin.



Santa's Visit

It was Christmas morning.
Happy day!

Jack ran downstairs
to see if Santa Claus
had filled his stocking.

The toys were all around
the Christmas tree.

There sat Betty playing
with a doll that looked
like a real baby.

When she saw Jack she shouted,
“Come and see what Santa
has left for us!”

There stood a dear little airplane
just big enough for two.

“Hurrah for dear old Santa!”
said Jack.

“Just what we asked him
to bring us!

We'll ride our plane
up in the air
To see the moon fairies
blink and stare,
Dancing bears and elephants,
too.

It may be we'll bring home
a few."

And Betty said,
"Our plane is red,
Our plane is new.
When we go up in it,
Dolly goes too."

"Let us take a ride now!"
said Betty.

“No, let us wait until bedtime,”
said Jack.

“Then no one will see us hop off.”

“And no one will hear us
when the radio is going,”
said Betty.

“Mother will be listening
in on K. D. K. A.

And Father will be reading to see
what the news is to-day.”

But neither Betty nor Jack
remembered about
Mr. Sandman, who always
came to their house at night.



Just when they were ready
to hop off he dropped
some sand into their eyes.

Oh, my! How they rubbed
and rubbed!

Well,

The little moon fairies
did blink and stare,
But not at the airplane
red.

They were looking
at two tired children,
Each asleep
in a little white bed.



Bunny Long Ears

Once there was a little Bunny.
Bunny had two long, long ears.
Bunny had two pretty pink eyes.
And Bunny had four little feet
that went hop, hop, hop!

His name was Bunny Long Ears.
He lived in a pretty Bunny Book.
Bunny Long Ears loved to have
all the children look at him.

One day he said to himself,
“I must do something nice
for all my little friends.”

So, with
a flip and a flop
and a skip and a hop,
out he jumped from the book.

As he hopped past the big tree
he heard Policeman Owl say,
“Who, who—who goes there?”

“It is I, Bunny Long Ears.

“O Policeman Owl,

I want to do something nice
for all the little children
who love me so much.

What can I do?

You are wise.

Can you not tell me?”

“Why, yes, indeed, Bunny.

I know the very thing!

Easter is coming.

All the children love Easter time.

Hen Pen will be glad

to give you some pretty eggs.

Lady Spring will give you
some pretty spring flowers.
All the little people
of the woods will help you.
Take each of your little friends
a pretty egg
and some spring flowers.”

“Good, good!” said Bunny.

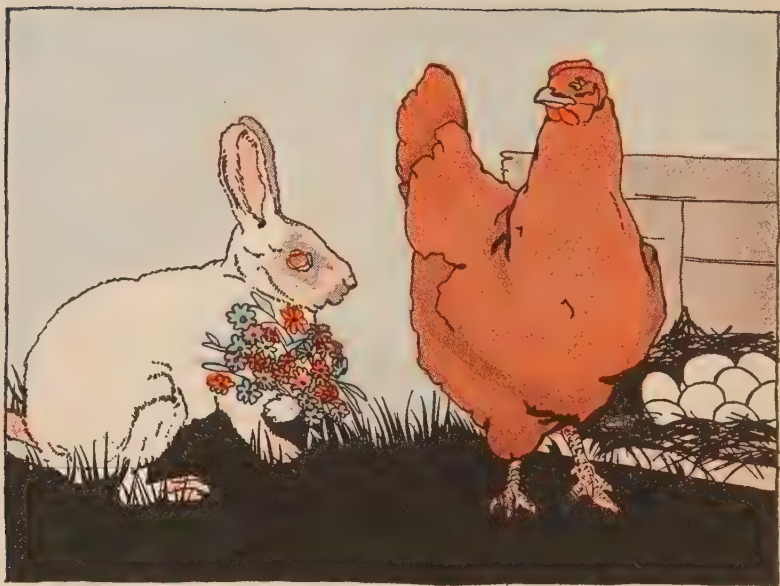
So, with
a flip and a flop
and a skip and a hop,
off ran Bunny Long Ears.

As he ran along
he met Lady Spring.

“O Lady Spring, I want to do
something nice for the children.
Will you give me
some spring flowers for them?”

“Why, Bunny Long Ears,
these flowers are just waiting
for some one to take them.
You may have all you can carry.”

So, with
a flip and a flop
and a skip and a hop,
Bunny Long Ears picked
all the flowers he could carry.
Then on he ran through the woods.



Soon he saw Hen Pen.

“O Hen Pen, I want to do
something nice for the children.
Will you help me?

“Lady Spring gave me
these pretty flowers.

Will you give me some
of your pretty eggs?"

"Cluck, cluck, help yourself,"
said Hen Pen.

"O thank you, dear Hen Pen.
I know the children love you, too."
So Bunny took all the eggs
he could carry.

"I will ask my little friends
of the woods to help me
make a basket.

Then I can carry the flowers
and the eggs to the children."

Soon the basket was made.

“When it is dark,” said Bunny,

“I shall call at the home
of all my little friends.

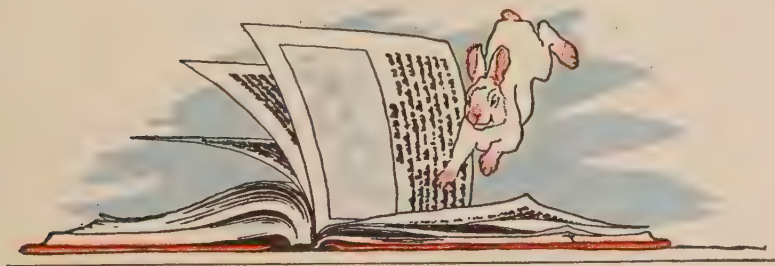
I shall leave some pretty flowers
and a pretty egg for each one.

Then they will know that
Bunny Long Ears loves them
and thinks of them
at Easter time.”

What a busy bunny he was
that night!

Early next morning
he came back to his home
in the pretty Bunny Book.

So, with
a flip and a flop
and a skip and a hop,
back he jumped into the book.
He was a tired, but happy bunny.
If you care to see him, just look
into your pretty Bunny Book.
You will see his two long, long ears,
and his two pretty pink eyes,
and his four little feet
that go hop, hop, hop!



Two Little Squirrels

One day when the Old Woman
Who Lived in the
Pumpkin Shell
was walking in the woods,
she saw two Baby Squirrels.

They felt very sad because
their mother had gone away
and had never come back.

“I will take you home with me,”
said the Old Woman.

“There is plenty of room
in the Pumpkin Shell.”



So she put the two Baby Squirrels
in her apron pocket
and carried them home.
They liked the Pumpkin Shell.

And soon the Baby Squirrels
learned to play "Hide and Seek"
and other games.

At night they slept
in the Old Woman's pocket.
They always found some nuts there.

One day the Old Woman borrowed
the Rolling Pin
from the Soft Soap Man.

She made some cookies
for the Baby Squirrels.

That night she was tired
and went to bed early.

After a while she heard a noise.

The Old Man heard the noise, too.
They jumped out of bed
and ran downstairs.

There lay the Rolling Pin
on the floor.

The little squirrels
had been hungry.

They could not find any nuts.
So they started to nibble
the handles of the
Rolling Pin.

The Rolling Pin was very angry.
It rolled over and over
till it came to the door.



The noise frightened
the little squirrels.
They ran and hid
in the Old Woman's pocket.
There she found them.

“I think they would rather
live in the woods,”
said the Old Man.

The next morning he put them
up in the branches
of a tall tree.

Every day the Old Man
and the Old Woman
would go for a walk
in the woods.

They would always put some nuts
on the ground under the tree
where the little squirrels
could get them.

A Rainy Day

“Rain, rain, go away!

Don’t you know

we can’t go out to play
when you keep on raining
so hard?”

All the little children in

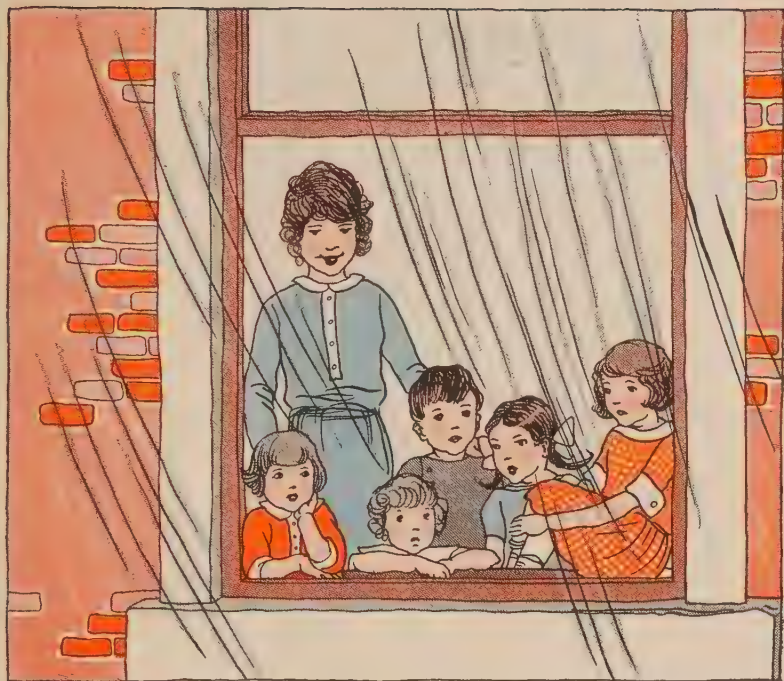
Miss Lolly Pop’s school
looked sad.

“What is all this?

What is all this?”

said Miss Lolly Pop.

“Why, dear Miss Lolly Pop,
just look at the rain!



It rains and rains

as if it would never stop!

We wanted to go out to play.

We cannot play in the rain.

Now our fun is all spoiled.”

“No, no, children,”

said Miss Lolly Pop.

“We can have some fun in school.

How would you like to make

a Zoo?”

“Oh, fine! fine!” said the

little folks.

“Where will we get our animals?”

“Never mind the animals,”

said Miss Lolly Pop.

“They are all here,

ready and waiting to go

into their proper places.”

“Goody! goody! let us hurry.”

“We’ll make places for them,”
said the children.

Boy Blue made a cage
for the lions.

Tommy Tucker made a cage
for the tigers.

Mary Contrary made a den
for the bears.

They all helped.

In a short time
there were places ready
for all the animals.

“Now, we are all ready,
Miss Lolly Pop!”

And what do you think

Miss Lolly Pop gave them?

A big box of Animal Crackers!

How the children did shout!

In a short time

every animal was in its place

looking as pleased as could be.

“Look, children, look!

Look through the window!”

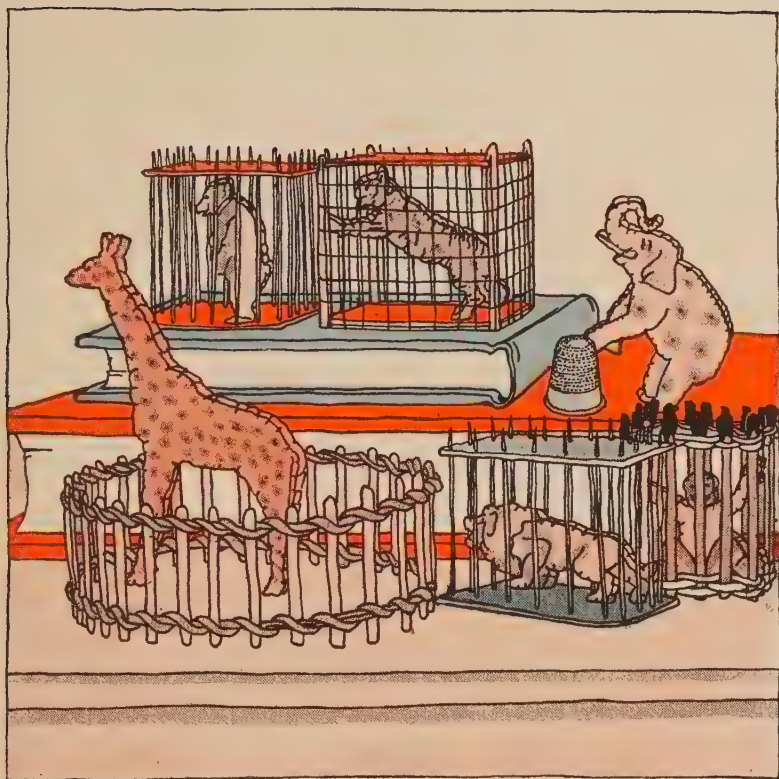
said Miss Lolly Pop.

There was the sun shining

as brightly as ever.

“We don’t care, Miss Lolly Pop,”

said the children.



“We don’t care!

We would much rather have
our lovely Animal Cracker
Zoo.”

The Last Day of School

Soft Soap Man said,
“I must visit the school.
This is the last day.”

He jumped on his Rolling Pin
and said,

“Roll me to school!

Roll me to school!

I must see if the children
have kept every rule.”

Rolling Pin rolled down the hill.

He soon came to the school.

There he met Miss Lolly Pop,
the teacher.

Miss Lolly Pop said,
“Come in, Soft Soap Man.
We are glad to see you.”
Soft Soap Man looked around
the room.

There sat the Old Woman
Who Lived in the Shoe.
She came to see her children
and to meet the folks
she knew.

There sat Raggedy Man
with his wig and his wag.
The children were all looking
at his queer leather bag.

There sat the Old Woman
Who Lived in the Shell.
The Old Man came with her.
Both seemed very well.

There, too, near the door,
was Judge Pig.

Just then the door opened
and in marched the
Tin Soldiers.

The children were so excited!
They all stood up and said,
“Little Tin Soldiers
standing in a row,
Marching along to the music, so.

They march to the left,
They march to the right;
If the music doesn't stop,
They will march all night."

"How do you do, Tin Soldiers?"
said Miss Lolly Pop.

"Perhaps the Captain
will make a speech."

"No," said the Captain,
"we are not on parade.

We were sent to give
a Tooth Brush Drill.

How many children have brushed
their teeth this morning?"

“Oh! they all have,”
said Miss Lolly Pop.

“But what is that queer noise?”
asked the Captain.

“It sounds like some one crying.”

“Oh! it is Old Rag Doll,”
cried the children.

“She is trying to hide
under the seat.”

“Did you run away again,
Old Rag Doll?”
asked the Tin Soldiers.

“Well, we will take you
back with us.”



“Let us sing our songs,”
said Miss Lolly Pop.
So they sang the songs
that they liked best.

“Judge Pig may give out
the promotion cards,”
said Miss Lolly Pop.

The children came up
to Judge Pig, who said,
“I see you did very well,
as each card will tell.”

Then Soft Soap Man said,
“Now we will all take a ride
on my Rolling Pin.

We are going to see Lady Spring.”

The children laughed and shouted
as they climbed on the
Rolling Pin.

They rode and rode
until they saw Lady Spring.
She gave them
many forget-me-nots.

Then they thanked Lady Spring
and the Soft Soap Man.

They said good-by
to dear Miss Lolly Pop,
and sang as they ran,
“School is over,
Hooray! Hooray!
We need do nothing
But play all day!”

ABOUT THE BOOK

These stories are intended for reading in the last half of the first year or the first half of the second year. They are built around nursery rhymes and a number of original characters. The stories have been tried out successfully in both the first and second grades with many groups of children, and have proved so interesting to them that they have requested them retold from time to time.

The stories were written with two aims in view:

First, to create a desire to read.

Second, to establish the proper habits and skills in reading.

This desire to read, it has been found by the authors, is created naturally on the part of the child by stories true to child life, enlivened with imagination and rich in action.

As to habits and skills, experiments with different groups have shown that it is possible to develop ability to work out new words and meanings through context, association, phonetic analysis and unusual rhyming. Through these stories a social sense has been developed, necessary at this time in the child's school life, by dramatization, illustration, modeling, movies, puppet plays and pantomimes.

Values evolved by comparison with other groups in the classroom in the use of these stories:

1. Increase of speed due to the length of line.
2. Longer concentration due to the interesting material.
3. A desire on the part of the child to share the stories with others.
4. Tests have shown that the content matter is easily retained.

The vocabulary contains a total of 598 different words, not counting proper names. Checked against the accepted word lists, they are grouped as follows:

Gates word list for primary grades—316 words are in the first 500, 138 words are in the second 500, 82 words are in the third 500. There are 62 words outside of the above lists.

Thorndike's word list—the vocabulary shows 247 words that fall within the first 500, 72 words within the second 500, 40 within the third 500 and 10 within the fifth 500.

Twenty-fourth Year Book—364 words are in this list.

Dr. Yocum's List—243 words are in this list.

The others are words that can be easily built up through phonetics.

J. A. H.
L. M. E.



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